CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH FEBRUARY 2016:

President Paul Elliot opened the meeting at 19.45 hours and welcomed the 18 members present. For the first half of the evening he invited **John Schofield** to give his display on the **Gilbert & Ellice Islands.**

The Gilbert & Ellice Islands are a group of low-lying islands in the Pacific Ocean mainly made up of coral reefs and atolls. Following an introduction on the history and geography of the area, John's display showed material from a variety of islands such as Ocean Island, Sydney Island, Gardiner Island and Fanning Island. There was a variety of material – covers with different cancellations and postmarks, early post cards, postage dues and stamps on cover. The presentation ended with Christmas Island, the largest atoll in the world at 220 square miles which was used by the British to test the atom bomb.

The second half was a presentation by **Frank Simpson** of **Goslar.**

Goslar is a small city 15 miles to the south of Hanover, Germany. It was originally built to service the mining of various ores from a nearby mountain, which closed in1988 as the mine was unprofitable. There was variety of material on show – a map of the city, a variety of postcards/pictures of houses in the city, the city coat of arms and a variety of postal history. The earliest letter dated from 1564. The letters showed a variety of cancels with stamps used in Goslar and another section showed post office receipts used for money packages. There were also letters from other areas to Goslar such as Yorkshire, Australia, Hong Kong and Jerusalem.

The members enjoyed viewing both displays which included high quality material which was well presented. Following a vote of thanks by President Paul the meeting closed at 21.45 hours.

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Graham Harker, Honorary Assistant Secretary, 2015-16, Croydon Philatelic Society